

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-07 AID-05 HEW-04
L-03 H-01 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11
HA-05 PA-01 SS-15 /102 W
-----073263 271839Z /53

R 271756Z APR 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8962
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 06416

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: WHO, XF
SUBJ: WHO SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON HEALTH CONDITIONS
IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

REF: STATE 101767

SUMMARY: SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON HEALTH CONDITIONS
IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IS EXPECTED TO BE CIRCULATED
NEXT WEEK. ACCORDING TO MAHLER IT APPEARS TO BE AN
EVEN-HANDED PRODUCT UNLIKELY TO STIR OUTRAGE ON EITHER
SIDE. HE FORESEES, OR AT LEAST HOPES, THAT IT MAY BE
POSSIBLE NOW TO CLOSE DOWN THIS ASSEMBLY ISSUE, IF
POSSIBLE WITH ANY FOLLOW-UP LEFT TO HIM TO MANAGE.
MISSION DOUBTS THE DESIRABILITY OF US DEMARCHES, AT
LEAST AT THIS JUNCTURE, AND DOUBTS OTHER GOVERNMENTS
COULD BE INDUCED TO MAKE PARALLEL DEMARCHES. END SUMMARY

1. AMBASSADOR MET ON APRIL 27 WITH WHO DIRECTOR GENERAL
MAHLER TO DISCUSS THE PROSPECTS FOR THE HANDLING OF
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THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT AT THE WORLD HEALTH
ASSEMBLY NEXT MONTH. MAHLER SAID THE REPORT HAD BEEN
COMPLETED JUST THE DAY BEFORE, AND SHOULD BE CIRCULATED
EARLY NEXT WEEK. IT WAS NOT A "POLITICAL" REPORT,
MAHLER SAID, BUT IT WAS HARD AT THE SAME TIME TO FIND A
DESCRIPTION FOR A HEALTH REPORT WHICH DERIVES FROM A
SERIES OF CONVERSATIONS AND INTERVIEWS. HE FORESAW

THAT ITS CONTENTS WERE LIKELY TO BE DISPLEASING TO BOTH SIDES IN ONE RESPECT OR ANOTHER, BUT THOUGHT THERE IS NOTHING IN IT WHICH COULD OUTRAGE EITHER SIDE.

2. IMPORTANT THING NOW IS THAT THERE IS A REPORT WHICH HAS BEEN PRODUCED IN FULL ACCORDANCE WITH THE MANDATE GIVEN TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE IN 1973. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OR COMPLAINT THAT ISRAEL IMPOSED ANY SIGNIFICANT RESTRICTIONS ON THE COMMITTEE'S TRAVELS AND INQUIRIES. CONSEQUENTLY MAHLER SEES LITTLE POSSIBILITY THAT ARAB DELEGATIONS AT THE ASSEMBLY COULD FIND GROUNDS OR MUSTER SUPPORT FOR LAUNCHING SERIOUS MOVES AGAINST ISRAEL. POSSIBILITY OF ARTICLE 7 BEING INVOKED SUCCESSFULLY AGAINST ISRAEL APPEARS VERY REMOTE TO HIM.

3. MAHLER DOES FORESEE THE LIKELIHOOD THAT ARAB DELEGATIONS WILL SQUEEZE WHAT THEY CAN OUT OF THE SITUATION AT THE ASSEMBLY, AND OBSERVED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT IN HIS VIEW THERE IS WORLDWIDE A "SENSE OF ACUTE IRRITATION WITH ISRAEL" WHICH FINDS EXPRESSION AMONG AFRICAN DELEGATIONS ESPECIALLY. ON BALANCE, HOWEVER, HE EXPECTS THE AFRICAN DELEGATIONS (WHICH HE SEES AS THE KEY) WILL WISH TO DISPENSE FINALLY WITH THIS PROTRACTED ASSEMBLY ISSUE. THE MOST DESIRABLE AND OBTAINABLE RESOLUTION TO IT WOULD BE ACCEPTANCE OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON ITS MERITS
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AND PROBABLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL TO FOLLOW-UP ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS IT MAKES. HE WOULD HOPE THAT SUCH AN INSTRUCTION TO HIM WOULD BE INDEFINITE ABOUT WHEN HE SHOULD REPORT BACK TO THE ASSEMBLY ON THIS MATTER.

4. COMMENT: WE WOULD AGREE WITH MAHLER THAT IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THE ISSUE COULD BE PURSUED AT THE ASSEMBLY AS FAR AS ARTICLE 7 ACTION, OR THAT AN ARTICLE 7 ACTION COULD CARRY IN PLENARY ON THE BASIS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT AS IT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED TO US. WE WOULD WISH TO RESERVE ANY FIRMER PREDICTIONS, HOWEVER, UNTIL THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT CAN BE EXAMINED CLOSELY TO SEE WHAT PLAY THERE MAY BE IN THEM ON WHICH ARAB DELEGATIONS COULD BUILD EITHER ATTACKS ON ISRAEL OR UNREASONABLE FOLLOW-ON INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DIRECTOR GENERAL.

5. WHILE IT IS A JUDGMENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO MAKE, WE QUESTION THE DESIRABILITY OF DEMARCHES, AT LEAST ON THE BASIS OF THE SITUATION AS IT HAS SHAPED UP TO THIS POINT. IT WOULD SEEM UNWISE TO BE SEEN GIRDING UP FOR

A BATTLE WHICH IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THE ARABS MAY HAVE A HARDER TIME LAUNCHING THIS YEAR THAN PREVIOUSLY. AGAIN, ON THE BASIS OF THE OBJECTIVE FACTS AS WE NOW HAVE THEM, IT WOULD APPEAR UNLIKELY FROM THE GENEVA PERSPECTIVE THAT ANY OTHER GOVERNMENTS COULD BE INDUCED TO PARALLEL SUCH DEMARCHES.

6. IN LIGHT OF THE PERFORMANCE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ARAB DELEGATIONS AT PAST HEALTH ASSEMBLIES WE DO NOT WISH TO MINIMIZE THE POSSIBILITIES FOR TROUBLE. FOR THE PRESENT, HOWEVER, IT WOULD SEEM PREFERABLE TO MOVE WITH-

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 06416

IN THE FACTUAL SETTING WHICH HAS EMERGED, SINCE UP TO THIS STAGE IT APPEARS TO POINT TOWARD WHAT COULD BE AN ACCEPTABLE OUTCOME, AND FOR US TO BE SEEN AT THIS TIME INVENTING WORSE SCENARIOS COULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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